

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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of agriculture. In recognition of National Agriculture Week, the Nebraska Farm Bureau is providing lunch for us today, and I'm told that's including some cheesecake in there for dessert, too. So it will be available over in the lounge any time from 11:30 on. So anybody that wants to go over there, pick up their lunch, and I understand that there is cheese sandwiches for the ones that don't want the beef. So any time you want to go over there and pick it up, you can. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you for that paid announcement. Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schimek would move to amend, AM3041. (Legislative Journal page 1263.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Mr. President, and members of the body, first of all, I would like to thank Senators Bohlke and Thompson and Suttle for cosigning this amendment with me, and tell you that originally the amendment was filed on General File, and at that time, I indicated to you that the Education Committee was going to have a hearing on this amendment, which is what they have done. We had a very good hearing the other day and had a number of people testify in support of the amendment. We had...the Health Department came in in opposition to the amendment, but I'll tell you about that in a minute, and I think what their opposition was. But to start at the beginning, about, oh, a couple of weeks ago a constituent of mine, Sherrie Geier, who works for the Volunteer Service Commission, came to me and to my staff and said that she had been thinking about teacher shortages. There was a lot in the newspaper about it, and she wondered if there was any way that the commission, the Volunteer Service Commission could be helpful. She proposed a very interesting concept, which I subsequently took to Senator Bohlke and Thompson and Suttle. But before she actually came to us, she went to the National Service Commission to investigate the idea and the idea was well received. Now what this is all about is a request for a small amount of money that would allow somebody to in the Volunteer Service Commission, to oversee the program, and the program is the Teachers Corps AmeriCorps Education Award Program. And the